

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated June 2, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 2–9 are hereby amended, and claim 1 is canceled. Accordingly, claims 2–27 are pending, with claims 10–27 being withdrawn from consideration. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 6, 7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,708,485 to Sato et al. (hereinafter “Sato”) in view of *Liquid Crystals Applications and Uses* by Bahadur (ed.) (hereinafter “Bahadur”) and U.S. Patent No. 6,084,651 to Yamahara et al. (hereinafter “Yamahara”); and claims 2–5 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 2–5 and 8 have allowable subject matter.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 6, 7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Bahadur and Yamahara. Applicants hereby cancel claim 1 and amend claims 2–5 and 8 to be in independent form, and amend claims 6, 7, and 9 to depend from amended claim 5. Claim 5 is deemed to have allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6, 7, and 9, as they depend from claim 5, are allowable over any combination of Sato, Bahadur, and Yamahara.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed

Dated: September 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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